



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights



- Roosevelt County added 47 new radios on to the master controller this week for the Sheriff's Office, EMS, DES and Fire. Many thanks to Charlie Gilmore Lewis & Clark County, for taking the time to add them to the system!
- The Williams Coulee site in Garfield County is scheduled to have steel delivered this week, and the tower completed the week of Dec. 13.
- DHS gave its approval to install microwave equipment at the Richland County Law & Justice Center to provide connectivity for the second master controller into the IM's microwave backbone.

## Mobile Data Consortium Looking Forward

By Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)

The Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium meeting held in Bozeman on Nov. 30 provided an opportunity for mobile data users from across the state to finalize unit distribution and reaffirm plans for the future. Sheriff Leo Dutton and Steve Adsem from Lewis and Clark County reviewed the final distribution of the COPS grant-funded equipment. Previously, 103 computer units were distributed across the state.

Additional support includes a new server and licenses for Miles City and up to 23 additional computers to be received by nine agencies, including the Belgrade, Bozeman and Helena Departments; Custer, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Roosevelt and Yellowstone Counties; and Montana State University. Agencies receiving the units will be responsible for installation and additional software/hardware costs.

Sheriff Dutton led discussions as to the future of the MDT Consortium and where additional funding might be available to distribute more units. The group also expressed an interest in expanding the number of agencies participating in the group. Potential grant funding for the border might spark additional interest in the Northern Tier Consortium and agencies that might connect into the new Miles City server. Sheriff Dutton also asked the Public

Safety Services Bureau for assistance in identifying future funding sources for additional unit distribution. Other issues including broadband and security were discussed.

The next MDT Consortium meeting will be Thurs., Jan. 6, 2011 at the Gallatin County EOC 219 E Tamarack, in Bozeman.

## FCC Launches Webpage Dedicated to Narrowbanding

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

With the Jan. 1, 2013 narrowbanding compliance deadline fast approaching, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched a new webpage dedicated to providing information and assistance to licensees who are migrating their land mobile radio systems from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz or narrower channel bandwidth. Migration of these systems to narrowband operation will ultimately help reduce spectrum congestion, improve communications, and increase access.

According to Ret. Rear Admiral James Arden Barnett, Jr., Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Chief, with the deadline approaching and tightened state and local government budgets, public safety officials are working hard to explain their fiscal and technical needs to lawmakers. The Bureau wants to make sure the most up-to-date information is available to help officials with the transition. The webpage supplements the Bureau's ongoing outreach and educational efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of narrowbanding and the importance of meeting the 2013 narrowbanding deadline.

The webpage, [www.fcc.gov/narrowbanding](http://www.fcc.gov/narrowbanding), includes the following information:

- Narrowbanding benefits for public safety users;
- Frequently Asked Questions – answering technical and policy-related questions;
- Links to information and resources regarding grant programs;
- FCC Bureau-level contacts for those seeking additional information and assistance;
- FCC News Releases on narrowbanding proceedings and initiatives;
- A list of public safety frequency coordinators;
- Access to the FCC's licensing database.

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The Bureau has also established a new e-mail box, [narrowbanding@fcc.gov](mailto:narrowbanding@fcc.gov), for licensees and other interested parties to submit narrowbanding-related questions.

## New Radio SOP Templates on Website

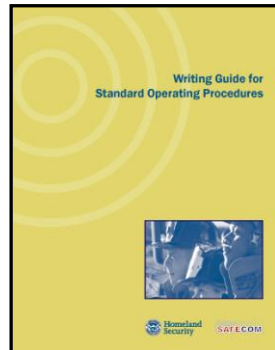
By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Two new sample Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been added to the Interoperability Montana (IM) fleet mapping website at <http://interop.mt.gov/fleetmapping.mcp> under the heading of SOP & Business Practices Examples. SOPs are formal written guidelines or instructions for incident response. They typically contain both operational and technical components that spell out how emergency responders can act in a coordinated fashion across disciplines in the event of an emergency.

The fictional Blackstone County, MT SOP example is a 22-page sample of SOPs and Communications Operations for a typical county in Montana. It is based on the "Local SOP Template" document that is listed just after the Blackstone County SOP sample on the webpage.

The webpage also provides examples of Lewis and Clark County's SOPs as well as examples from King County, Washington and Palm Beach, Florida. In addition, the site has a link to the SAFECOM Writing Guide for Standard Operating Procedures template, which is another valuable resource.

Effective SOPs are essential for successful incident response.



## Upcoming Meetings

### • Tues.-Thurs., Dec. 14, 15 & 16

December CASM Training

Online • 11:00 am – noon

- Tues., Dec. 14 - Radio System Data Entry
- Wed., Dec 15 – Agency Usage Data Entry
- Thurs., Dec. 16 – CAM Inventory Display/MAP Use

<https://franz.spawar.navy.mil/forums/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=107>

### • Thurs., Dec. 16

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am – noon

Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.

### • Mon., Dec. 20

IM Technical Committee (IMTC)

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

MACo Offices, 2715 Skyway Dr.

### • Mon., Jan. 3 (*Please note change*)

IM Finance Committee (IMFC)

Helena • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### • Mon., Jan. 3 (*Please note change*)

IM Governance Committee (IMGC)

Helena • 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### • Tues., Jan. 4 (*Please note change*)

IM Project Directors Meeting (IMPD)

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.

### • Thurs., Jan. 6

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium

Bozeman • 10:00 am – noon

Gallatin Co. EOC/SAR Building, 219 Tamarack